

I am pleased to present in the following pages a short summary and the 'understanding at completion point' of the Interim Evaluation of the Nampula Artisanal Fisheries Project (NAFP) in Mozambique.

Although there is room for improvement in some areas, NAFP has made significant progress in reaching its objectives. Performance indicators show that the project has generally met, or surpassed, the anticipated targets set at appraisal and mid-term review. The project's greatest achievement, however, is the socio-economic impact it has had on fisheries communities, empowering them to participate effectively in decision-making processes that affect their lives. NAFP has been instrumental in the formation of 142 community committees and organizations, which are now actively involved in implementing project activities that reflect their communities' priorities and preferences. In a society where women traditionally have limited opportunities to influence decisions and express their wishes, the participation of women in water committees together with men is also considered an important and potentially far-reaching project achievement. In sum, the useful experiences gained through NAFP provide IFAD and its partners with important insights for the development of future activities in the artisanal fisheries sector in Mozambique.

The understanding at completion point of the Interim Evaluation reflects the stakeholders' consensus and commitment to incorporate the lessons learned and recommendations from this evaluation in the implementation of NAFP, and the design and operations of new artisanal fisheries projects and programmes in Mozambique.

We sincerely hope that this brochure will contribute to the motivation and knowledge of other development practitioners and enrich their approaches related to rural poverty reduction. I take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all partners in the evaluation process for facilitating the undertaking of this task.

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Office of the President

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The Nampula Artisanal Fisheries Project (NAFP) was declared effective on 4 November 1994 with an expected closing date of 30 June 2001. Total project costs were estimated at USD 11.3 million, of which USD 6.0 million was funded by IFAD, USD 3.3 million by the Government of Mozambique and USD 2.0 million by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund. The project aims to improve the level of income, employment and food security of artisanal fishermen and their families in the project area. To reach these objectives, it provides fishing inputs and credit, tests and promotes new fishing techniques and fish-processing methods, strengthens transport and marketing, and improves sanitation facilities and access to drinking water. The four main sets of activities within the project are fisheries support, financial services, rural infrastructure and institutional strengthening.

Significant progress has been made in the implementation of most project components, including subsector policy reforms, improvement of artisanal

fisheries techniques and management of fisheries resources, enhanced private-sector supply of fisheries inputs, provision of credit to the target group, rehabilitation of feeder roads and the provision of water points. More specifically, taxes and tariffs have been lowered on fishing inputs; fishing equipment is now available in the project area at reasonable prices, thanks in particular to the opening of new private retail outlets in Angoche and Moma; and use of equipment has also increased. In partnership with the fishermen, the project has successfully tested different types of fishing gear such as larger-sized gill nets, long lines and trammel nets for shrimp. In addition, it has tested various approaches to fish processing and preservation, such as smoking kilns, and salt and drying racks. Through these measures, the project has sought to encourage fishermen to adopt sustainable fishing practices, and it has promoted more efficient fish production. Throughout the project area, regulations governing the size of the mesh in beach



has promoted more efficient fish production



seine nets was modified to 0.5 inches instead of the 1.5 inches previously used, and the trawler exclusion zone was extended from one to three nautical miles from the coast. These policy reforms have enabled fishermen to replace the traditional mosquito nets that once were prevalent without suffering yield losses; they have also widened the territory for artisanal fishing activities, and are expected to have a positive impact over time on fish resource stocks and the natural environment.

The financial services component moved at a slower rate than expected. Despite high demand for credit, only 30 loans have been disbursed thus far, for a total of approximately USD 125 000. The project has, however, made important advances in the delivery of financial services at the community level, in particular by organizing 131 savings and credit groups in the poorest segments of society, including various women's groups. Four methodologies were tested: credit associations, solidarity or confidence groups, savings clubs, and rotating savings and credit groups. Of the financial services offered, project participants particularly valued

the savings and credit groups. The construction of 122 wells and the rehabilitation of 138 km of feeder roads are among the project's main achievements, and they have had important impacts on the target communities. The project has been instrumental in promoting the formation of 142 community organizations (14 fishery resource management and co-management committees, 2 fishermen associations, 122 water committees and 4 microproject committees). These organizations actively participate in project activities aiming to improve the living conditions of the target beneficiaries.

Project management has been professional and results-oriented. Moreover, it has shown vision and excellent strategic planning, which will no doubt promote future development. Monitoring and evaluation capacity has been strengthened, and important data are being gathered to monitor not only catch and fishing activities, but also the project's performance and impact. Overall, the project is considered to have been sufficiently successful to be worth building upon in the new fisheries project currently being developed.





understanding at the completion point:

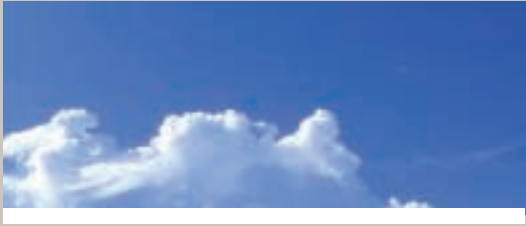
This completion point reflects an *understanding* among the core partners in the NAFP evaluation process to **adopt and use** the lessons learned and recommendations from this evaluation exercise, not only in implementing this particular project, but also in designing new projects and programmes aimed at improving the overall standard of living of artisanal fishery communities. The core partners included the Institute for the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries (IDPPE), the Fisheries Research Institute (IIP), the Small Industry Development Fund (FFPI), the Co-operative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere or CARE, and IFAD (represented by the Africa II Division and the Office of Evaluation and Studies).



Lessons Learned



1. Community Organizations and Empowerment
2. Co-management of Marine Resources and Sustainability
3. Participatory Adaptive Research, Extension and Marketing
4. Sub-Sector Investment Programme
5. Women's Empowerment



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